

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 DODE-00 NASA-02
EPA-04 NSF-02 JUSE-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 ACDA-10
INT-05 NSC-05 CEQ-01 SP-02 IO-14 SS-15 CIAE-00
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DRAFTED BY NOAA:MR. CHARAK:MLK
APPROVED BY OES:RCBREWSTER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS STATE 218276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, XL, XK

SUBJECT: HURRICANE MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT - STORMFURY

REF: A) STATE 216608, B) HAVANA 0066, STATE 194514

1) FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION PROMISED IN REFTEL
A IS PROVIDED BY NOAA IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS EXPRESSED
BY MR. RODRIGUEZ AS STATED IN REFTEL B.

2) THE USE OF SILVER IODIDE DURING STORMFURY EXPERIMENT
WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, EITHER ON THE NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT OR ON HUMAN HEALTH AND ACTIVITY. IN GENERAL,
THE AMOUNT OF SILVER IODIDE DISPERSED WILL RESULT IN
CONCENTRATIONS WELL BELOW LEVELS HARMFUL TO HUMANS.
CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT THE EXTREME UPPER LIMIT ON SILVER
CONCENTRATION IN THE STORM WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 50 TIMES
LESS THAN THE ACCEPTED TOXIC LEVEL. IN ADDITION, ATMOS-
PHERIC TURBULENCE, RAIN AND WINDS DURING STORM CONDITIONS
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WILL DISPERSE AND DILUTE THE SEEDING MATERIALS RAPIDLY.
MOST OF SILVER IODIDE IS EXPECTED TO FALL INTO OCEAN
WITHIN SIX HOURS AFTER SEEDING.

3) THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SEEDING ALTERS NATURAL
STORM TRACK. OBSERVATIONS MADE DURING EIGHT PREVIOUS
HURRICANE SEEDING EXPERIMENTS GAVE NO INDICATION OF

ABNORMAL TRACK CHANGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEEDING. IN PAST TWO YEARS NUMERICAL COMPUTER EXPERIMENTS USING THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODEL OF HURRICANE SHOWED NO SYSTEMATIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOTION OF STORM WITH SIMULATED SEEDING AND A CONTROL STORM WITHOUT SEEDING. ANY CHANGES NOTED IN THE NUMERICAL COMPUTATIONS WERE WITHIN THE RANDOM VARIATIONS IN TRACK USUALLY OBSERVED IN NATURAL STORMS.

4) DURING THE PLANNED EXPERIMENT, BULK WATER SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED BY THE RESEARCH AIRCRAFT TO VERIFY THE SILVER IODIDE CONCENTRATIONS AND STORM POSITION WILL BE ACCURATELY MONITORED.

5) NOAA WOULD BE WILLING TO FORWARD MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE POINTS IF QUESTIONS REMAIN. VANCE

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